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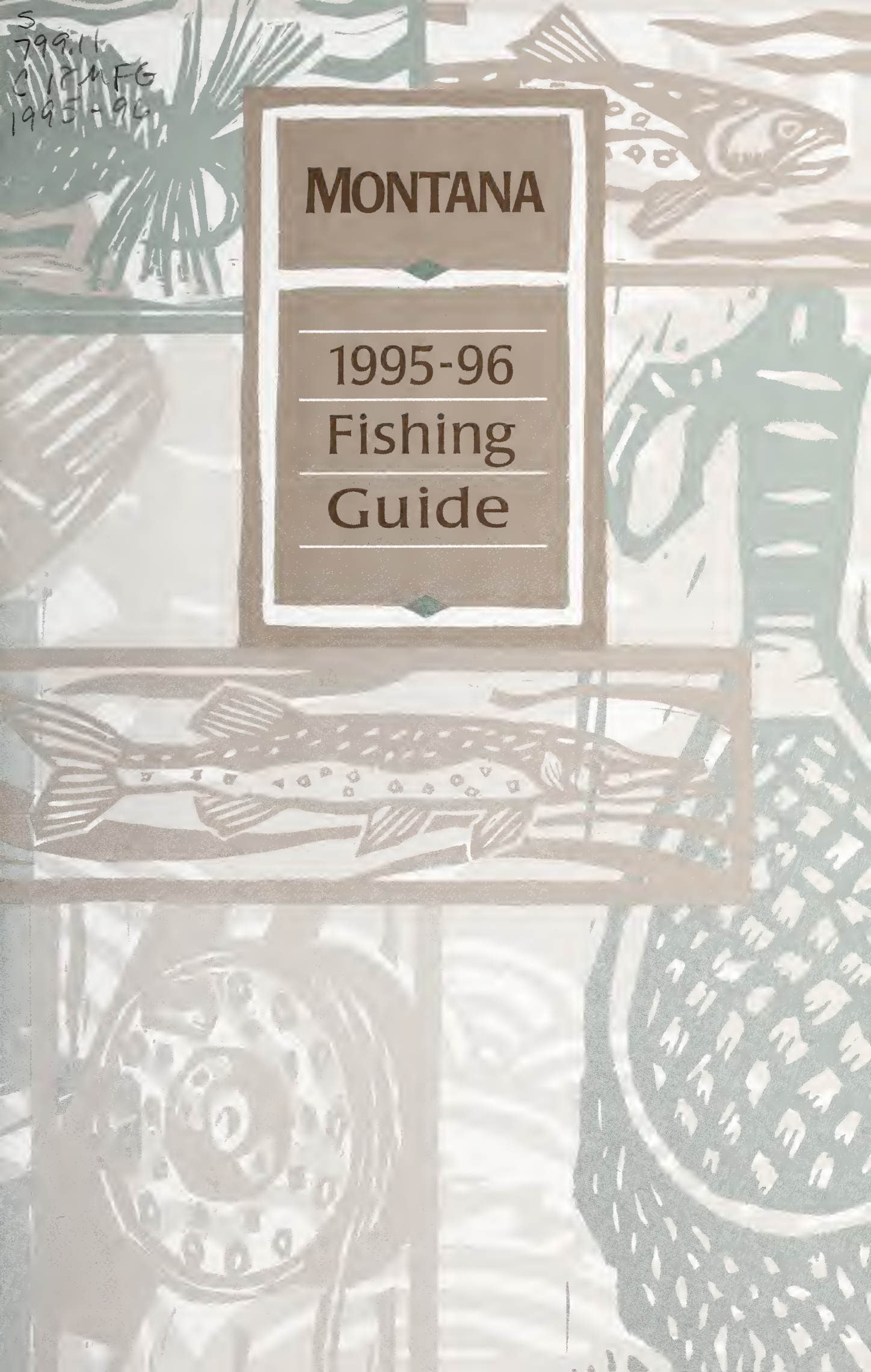

MONTANA

1995-96 Fishing Guide

Montana State Library
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He thinks he's there to fish,
but pretty soon he's there
to see the heron in the morning
and hear the coyote in the
night, and by then he is
captured by the mountains,
and after he departs. . . . in his
dreams far away to the east,
he sees the golden eagle riding
the thermals.

CHARLES KURALT,
1986 DEDICATION OF THE
MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES,
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

FISHING in Montana is More than the CATCH!

Montana is renowned not just for its fishing but for the entire experience it yields: clear, rushing rivers and streams; quiet lakes and secret "cricks"; unrivaled landscapes, mallards aloft and abundant fish below.

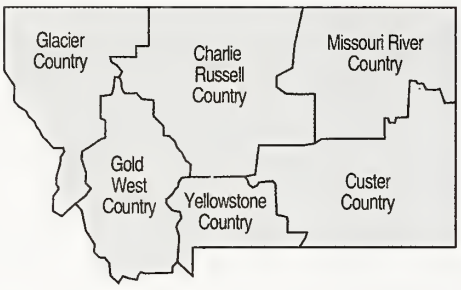
Montana is a headwaters state. Pristine waters born in snowmelt grow from unnamed trickles and streams to celebrated rivers like the Madison, Gallatin, Yellowstone, Big Hole and Bighorn. Some are impounded to form great lakes like Canyon Ferry, Fort Peck, Georgetown and Hebgen. Other lakes, like giant Flathead Lake, are natural beauties.

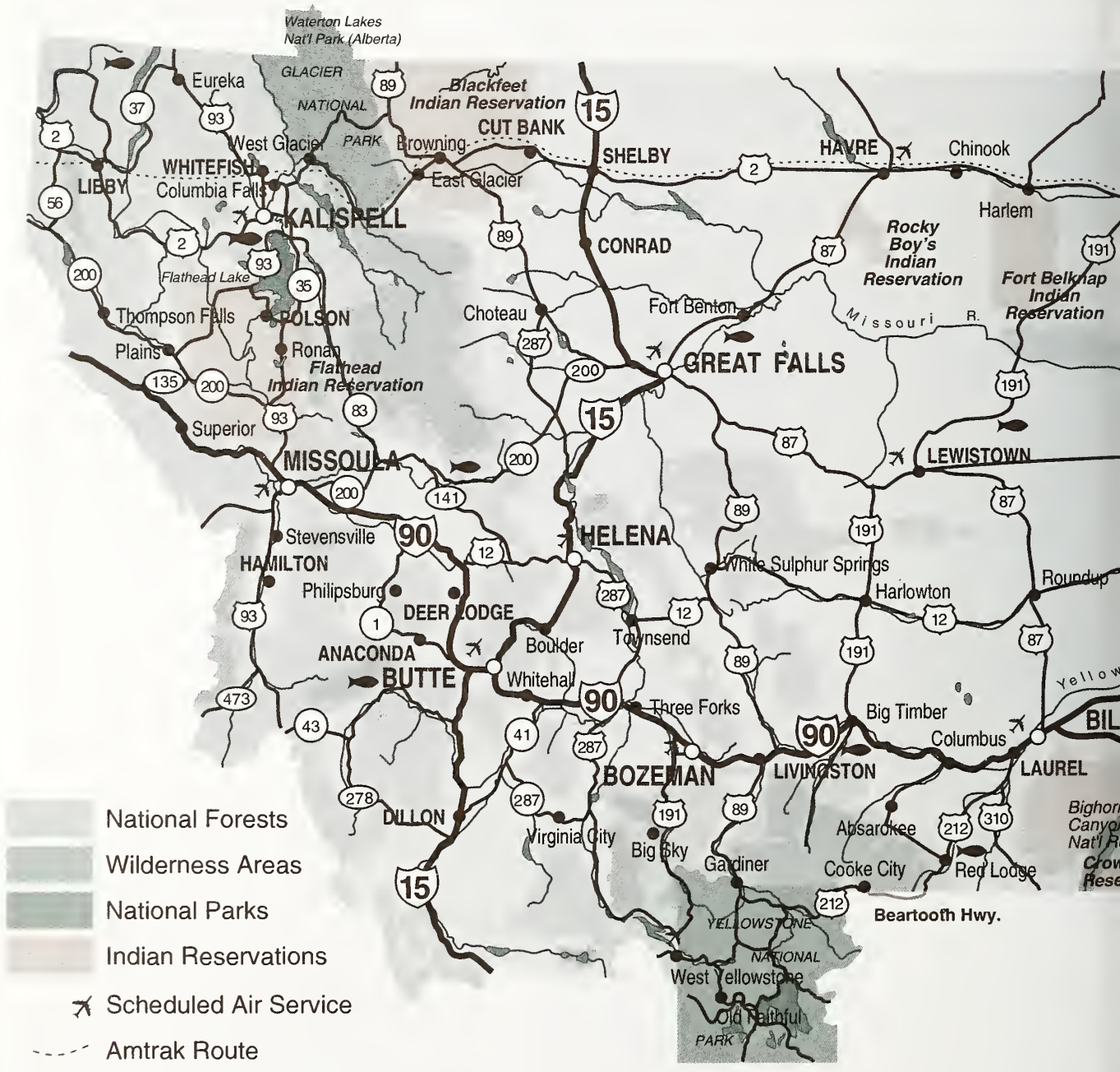
Montana's great fishing is more than a coincidence of climate, geography and geology. Aggressive conservation efforts have resulted in landmark legislation that protects the habitat in which wild trout and other fish species thrive. State fishery and wildlife managers are most concerned with habitat protection, and the results are apparent in creel counts, magazine features, television documentaries and the growing number of fishing licenses sold each year.

But biologists can't do it alone. As Montana's rivers, lakes and streams become increasingly known and loved, each recreationist has a role in making the "Montana experience" a good one for every recreationist and in preserving the resource that makes Montana's fishing indisputably world class.

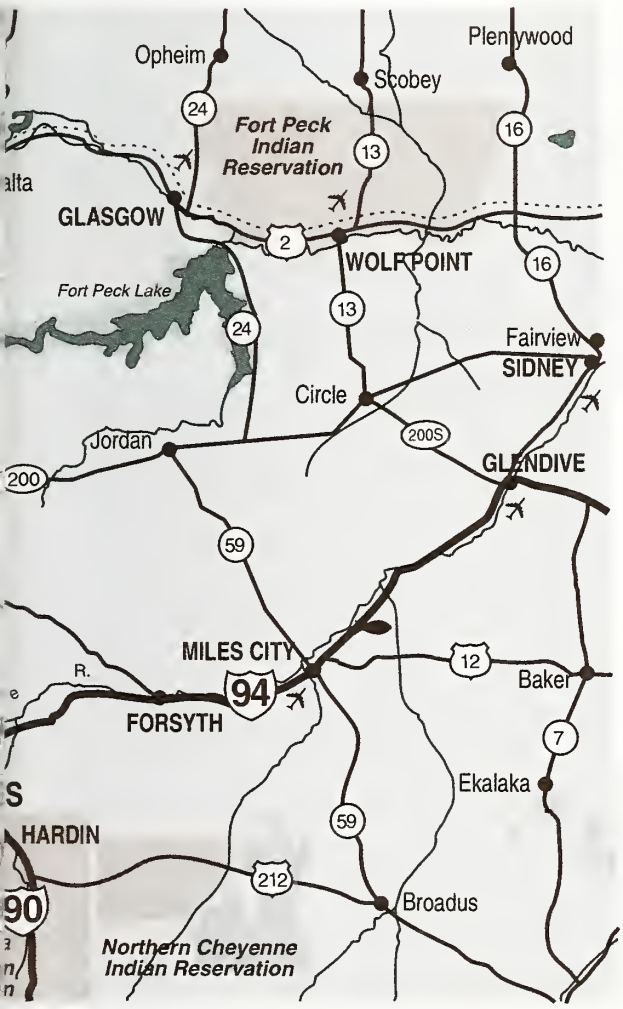
HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To help get you into some good fishing in Montana, we've divided the state into six regions, or "countries." Each is named for the special sense of place it evokes. From west to east, there's Glacier, Gold West, Charlie Russell, Yellowstone, Missouri River and Custer countries. In this guide, we describe each country, list the best streams and lakes





found there, show their locations and describe the fish species and recreational facilities at each stream or lake. Fishing in Montana varies from watershed to watershed and from day to day. This guide is intended for general use only. For up-to-the-minute information on weather, water conditions, hatches and streamflows, inquire locally.



These maps are not accurate in miles or in geographic distances. Consult the Montana Official Highway Map before travel for accurate information.

This publication was produced by Travel Montana in cooperation with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

NATIONAL PARKS & INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Don't overlook Glacier and Yellowstone national parks and Montana's Indian reservations when you are looking for some great fishing. These areas have their own regulations and license requirements, so contact them directly for this information. Indian reservations are listed with regional information on the following pages.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
Information:
West Glacier, MT 59936
406-888-5441 Fax 888-5581

Room Reservations:
800-332-9351 (outside Montana) or
406-226-5551 (in state),
mid-May to mid-September;
602-207-6000, prior to mid-May

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
Information:
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307-344-7381 Fax 307-344-2323

Room Reservations:
307-344-7311

There's a wealth of information about our state that's free for the asking. Call Travel Montana to request information about lodging, camping, fishing, golf, skiing and other activities.

TRAVEL MONTANA
Rm MFG, PO Box 200533
Helena, MT 59620
800-VISIT MT (outside Montana)
406-444-2654 (in state)
Fax 406-444-1800
TDD 406-444-2978

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, but changes sometimes occur after publication.

Alternative formats of this document will be provided to disabled individuals upon request.

The Finer POINTS of FISHING in Montana

TECHNIQUES & TACKLE

Fly, spin and bait fishing are all popular in Montana, although bait fishing is restricted on some streams. First-time anglers to Montana are frequently surprised by the size of many of our rivers. This is big water. While hip boots are fine for wading smaller streams, chest waders and felt-soled boots are needed for major rivers. Float fishing is also popular but can be dangerous in high water. Inexperienced floaters should inquire locally about river conditions and possible hazards.

Motorboats are allowed on most lakes and on some larger rivers; smaller lakes and rivers may be restricted. Motorboat operators should always be alert to the possibility of fast-moving storms and strong winds. All motorboats must have a valid license from Montana or another state or country.

Children under 12 must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while boating or rafting; adults are encouraged to wear PFDs.

SEASONS

Fishing is a year-round sport in Montana, but anglers need to be aware of seasonal regulations and water conditions. In general, lakes and larger rivers are open to fishing all year, while smaller tributaries and some lakes are closed in winter. Summer is high season in Montana, but don't expect all waters to be running clear by June 1. Spring runoff can keep rivers running high and muddy from May until late June. At this time of year, anglers turn their attention to tailwater fisheries, spring creeks and smaller streams. Most waters are in prime condition from late June through October, but some anglers like to get a headstart in March and April, before runoff. Winter comes early and stays long in the high country; alpine lake fishing is confined to the summer months. Winter freezes lakes in December and doesn't let go until March and April. Ice fishing is a popular winter sport.

LICENSES

All anglers 15 years of age or older must possess a Montana fishing license, obtainable at sporting goods stores, some general stores and service stations, and all offices of the

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). A conservation license is required of both residents and nonresidents before a fishing license may be purchased. Licenses are non-transferrable and nonrefundable. The license year runs March 1 through February of the following year.

Montana also requires recreationists 12 years of age and older to possess a State Land Recreational Use License when recreating on state-owned lands. These licenses are available from FWP license vendors.

For a complete description of license requirements, fees, fishing regulations and restrictions governing recreation on state lands, contact an FWP office.

License fees are as follows:

Resident Conservation License: $4
Resident Fishing License: $13
Nonresident Conservation License: $5
Nonresident 2-Day License: $10
Nonresident Season License: $45
State Land Recreational Use License: $5

FISHING ACCESS SITES

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) maintains more than 300 public fishing access sites throughout the state. Some provide good bank fishing while others offer simply parking and boat-launching areas. Some are equipped with toilets and camp sites. Many are disabled accessible. For a complete list of disabled accessible sites, please contact an FWP office. All sites are marked by the road sign shown here. Additional fishing access sites are provided by other state and federal land management agencies.

FISH HATCHERIES

Montana manages its fishery resources for a diversity of game fish. In many regions, wild trout are the focus, and wherever possible, native species are given special attention. Montana's fish hatcheries are a useful tool in achieving all of these objectives. Fish that are stocked are compatible with resident populations; frequently they are used to restore native fish to their historical habitat. FWP operates nine hatcheries throughout the state, each one an attraction in its own right. Hatcheries are open to the public during normal operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours are available by prior arrangement.

Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery, Somers, 857-3744. Center of kokanee salmon recovery efforts for Flathead Lake; both a production hatchery and wild egg collection station.

Jocko River Trout Hatchery, Arlee, 726-3344. Broodstock station for Arlee rainbow trout; produces 6 million eggs annually.

Murray Springs Hatchery, Eureka, 889-3489. A mitigation hatchery owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by FWP to offset loss of fishery habitat when Lake Koocanusa was impounded; trout and kokanee salmon.

Washoe Park Trout Hatchery, Anaconda, 563-2531. State's oldest hatchery and only broodstock station for wild-based westslope cutthroat trout.

Giant Springs Trout Hatchery, Great Falls, 452-5734. Visitor center, viewing pond and park along the Missouri River. This is a production station for both trout and kokanee salmon.

Big Springs Trout Hatchery, Lewistown, 538-5588. State's largest coldwater production station for rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout, and kokanee salmon. Outdoor information center and viewing pond.

Yellowstone River Trout Hatchery, Big Timber, 932-4434. Broodstock station for Yellowstone strain of cutthroat trout.

Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery, Bridger, 668-7443. Production station for rainbow and cutthroat trout and occasional chinook salmon.

Miles City Hatchery, Miles City, 232-4753. Montana's only warmwater hatchery; produces walleye, northern pike, large and smallmouth bass, catfish, crappie and tiger musky. Visitor center.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Over the years, Montana's native fishery has been diminished by the introduction of non-native fish, over-harvest, dams and other habitat alterations. The westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, bull trout and grayling that once filled western Montana waters are now scarce in most of their native ranges, while eastern Montana's pallid sturgeon, an endangered species, has been greatly diminished.

Recognizing the need to conserve Montana's native species, state fishery officials have listed 16 "species of special concern." Research and management programs are being developed to protect and enhance these critical populations. Bull trout fishing, for example, is now basically closed in Montana.

Anglers should know that it is illegal to transplant or introduce live fish into Montana waters. Use of live fish for bait is also prohibited in many waters. These activities can result in the introduction of parasites and disease, which can radically alter the kinds and quantity of fish in a lake or stream. A desirable fish in one body of water can become a pest in another.

The cooperation of anglers in complying with special regulations governing Montana's native fish is vital to their survival.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Montana regulations generally allow liberal catch limits but on some waters, special regulations are used to protect and enhance certain species. Some blue-ribbon streams are subject to a "catch-and-release" regulation, which allows anglers to enjoy fishing but requires that all trout be returned to the water immediately after landing. Other waters have "slot limits" that allow some harvest but require the release of trout in a specified size class, generally 13-22." Angling on these streams is often restricted to artificial flies or lures only. By reducing the number of trout creeled, more trout are surviving to reach trophy size of three pounds or larger.

STREAM ACCESS

Recreational access to Montana waters is generally excellent, due to a combination of public land in the upper watersheds, a network of accesses purchased by the state with fishing license fees and the generosity of private landowners. State fishing access sites on most major rivers are spaced at 5- to 10-mile intervals, allowing wading anglers key entry points and providing floaters with options for full- or half-day trips.

Montana law allows the public to make recreational use of rivers and streams between the ordinary high-water marks. Anglers can wade a stream, walk along the bank below the high-water mark or float fish on any waters large enough to carry a boat. However, the law does not give recreationists the right to enter private lands bordering streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams. The success of the stream access law depends on the cooperation of recreationists and landowners based on mutual understanding and respect for private property rights.

MAPS & GUIDES

Maps of fishing access sites on several streams are available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Many local tackle shops distribute more detailed maps of their areas and float maps for major rivers. Backcountry anglers can obtain U.S. Forest Service maps from regional forest service offices and ranger sta-

tions (406-329-3511); topographic maps are available from many sporting goods stores and the U.S. Geological Survey (303-236-7477). Local reference books and fishing guides are also widely available at bookstores and sporting goods stores. The Montana Official Highway Map is available free of charge from Travel Montana and locations throughout the state.

OUTFITTERS & GUIDES

Montana has some of the best licensed outfitters and guides in the country. Their services vary from half-day trips to extended vacations. If you are fishing a new stretch of water, hiring a guide for the first day can be a good investment. Learn the water from an expert, then explore it on your own time. A complete listing of outfitters appears in the *Montana Travel Planner,* available from Travel Montana. Please be aware that it is unlawful to hire an unlicensed outfitter or guide for hunting and fishing in Montana.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
Box 67
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730
763-4761

Montana Outfitters and Guides Association
Box 1248
Helena, MT 59624
449-3578 Fax 443-2439

Montana Board of Outfitters
Department of Commerce
111 N. Jackson
Helena, MT 59620
444-3738 Fax 444-1667

FOR GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
State Headquarters
1420 E. Sixth Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
444-2535 Fax 444-4952

All Montana phone numbers are reached by Area Code 406.

RULES OF THE RIVER

The Montana fishing experience is as rewarding as each recreationist makes it. Here are some tips to make the sport more enjoyable and to preserve both the natural and social environment that support it.

■ Allow plenty of space for other anglers and avoid monopolizing a particular riffle or pool ■ Boaters should avoid wading anglers, allow plenty of space between boats, yield to upstream boats and clear launch sites quickly ■ Motorboat operators should travel at a no-wake speed when floaters or waders are in the area ■ Know your boating and fishing regulations ■ Respect the rights and property of others; comply with signs and restrictions; always get permission before walking or driving on private land ■ Streambeds are fragile habitat; don't drag anchors over them or use them as walkways ■ Use established campsites, away from parking and boat launching areas, and leave your campsite clean.

You can make a difference. Help assure Montana remains a premier fishing destination for future generations.

Glacier Country

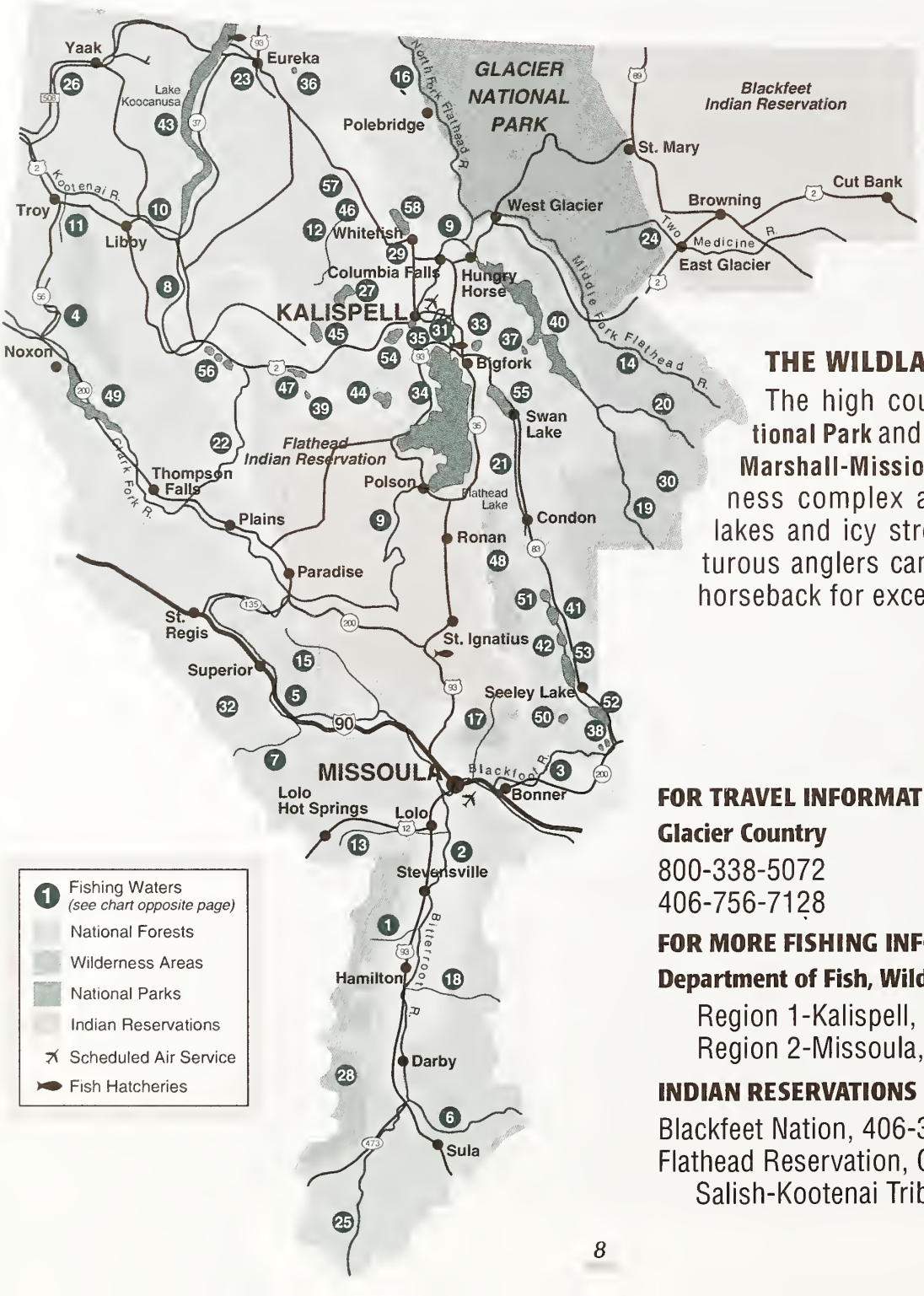
The mighty Flathead River system and some of Montana's most spectacular wildlands form the backdrop of Glacier Country. From swift rivers and serene lakes to wilderness "pack-in" adventures, Glacier Country offers a wide variety of fishing opportunities.

THE RIVERS

The **Flathead** and its forks host spawning runs of two natives—the colorful westslope cutthroat trout and the bull trout, both species of special concern in Montana. The **Kootenai** offers wild rainbow trout fishing at its best, while the **Bitterroot** and **Clark Fork** are renowned for both rainbow and brown trout.

THE LAKES

Flathead Lake, the West's largest, natural, freshwater lake, yields trophy lake trout, lake whitefish and yellow perch. Other lakes with top angling reputations include **Whitefish Lake, Lake Mary Ronan, Swan Lake**, upper and lower **Stillwater** lakes, **McGregor Lake, Thompson** lakes and **Lake Koocanusa**. The Blackfeet Indian Reservation boasts several trophy-trout lakes.



THE WILDLANDS

The high country of **Glacier National Park** and the neighboring **Bob Marshall-Mission Mountains** wilderness complex abound with alpine lakes and icy streams where adventurous anglers can pack in on foot or horseback for excellent trout fishing.

FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION

Glacier Country

800-338-5072
406-756-7128

FOR MORE FISHING INFORMATION

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 1-Kalispell, 406-752-5501
Region 2-Missoula, 406-542-5500

INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Blackfeet Nation, 406-338-7276
Flathead Reservation, Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes, 406-675-2700

RIVERS AND STREAMS	MAP NUMBER	COLDWATER SPECIES													WARMWATER SPECIES										FACILITIES						
		Brook Trout	Mountain Whitefish	Lake Whitefish	Golden Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Kokanee Salmon	Lake Trout	Arctic Grayling	Burbot	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Sauger	Northern Pike	Shovelnose Sturgeon	Channel Catfish	Yellow Perch	Crappie	Paddlefish	Vehicle Access	Campgrounds	Toilets	Docks	Boat Ramps	Motor Restrictions
Bear Creek	1					●																	●					
Bitterroot River	2	●	●			●	●	●															●	●	●		●	
Blackfoot River	3	●	●			●	●	●															●	●	●		●	
Bull River	4	●	●			●	●																●	●				
Clark Fork River	5		●			●	●	●					●				●						●	●	●		●	
East Fork Bitterroot River	6		●			●		●															●					
Fish Creek	7	●	●			●	●	●															●	●	●			
Fisher River	8	●	●					●															●					
Flathead River	9		●	●		●				●			●				●						●	●	●		●	
Kootenai River	10		●					●	●														●	●	●		●	
Lake Creek	11	●	●			●		●																				
Logan Creek	12	●	●			●																	●	●				
Lolo Creek	13	●	●			●	●	●															●	●	●			
Middle Fork Flathead River	14		●			●																	●	●	●		●	●
Ninemile Creek	15	●	●			●	●	●															●					
North Fork Flathead River	16		●			●																	●	●	●		●	●
Rattlesnake Creek	17	●	●			●	●	●																				
Skalkaho Creek	18		●			●																	●					
South Fork Flathead River	19		●			●																	●	●	●		●	●
Spotted Bear River	20		●			●																	●	●	●			
Swan River	21	●	●			●		●															●	●	●			
Thompson River	22	●	●			●	●	●															●	●	●			
Tobacco River	23							●	●														●					
S. Fork Two Medicine River	24					●		●																				
West Fork Bitterroot River	25		●			●	●	●															●	●	●			
Yaak River	26	●	●			●		●															●	●	●		●	
LAKES AND RESERVOIRS																												
Ashley Lake	27					●			●											●			●	●	●		●	
Bitterroot alpine lakes	28					●		●																				
Blanchard Lake	29												●							●			●				●	
Bob Marshall Wilderness lakes	30		●			●																						●
Church Slough	31												●				●			●			●				●	
Clark Fork alpine lakes	32	●				●		●																				
Echo Lake	33												●				●			●			●	●	●	●	●	
Flathead Lake	34			●		●				●										●			●	●	●	●	●	
Foy Lake	35							●															●			●	●	
Glen Lake	36		●					●	●											●			●	●	●		●	
Handkerchief Lake	37					●					●												●	●	●			
Harper's Lake	38							●															●	●	●		●	
Hubbart Reservoir	39	●						●	●											●			●				●	
Hungry Horse Reservoir	40		●			●																	●	●	●		●	
Lake Alva	41		●			●			●				●							●			●	●	●		●	
Lake Inez	42		●			●			●				●							●			●	●	●		●	
Lake Koocanusa	43		●			●		●	●			●											●	●	●	●	●	
Lake Mary Ronan	44					●		●	●				●							●			●	●	●	●	●	
Little Bitterroot Lake	45							●	●														●	●	●		●	
Lower Stillwater Lake	46																●			●			●				●	
McGregor Lake	47		●					●		●										●			●	●	●	●	●	
Mission Mtn. Wilderness lakes	48	●			●	●		●																				●
Noxon Rapids Reservoir	49		●	●		●	●	●					●	●			●			●			●	●	●	●	●	
Placid Lake	50		●			●		●	●				●							●			●	●	●	●	●	
Rainy Lake	51		●			●																		●	●			
Salmon Lake	52		●			●	●	●	●				●				●			●			●	●	●	●	●	
Seeley Lake	53		●			●		●	●				●				●			●			●	●	●	●	●	
Smith Lake	54																			●			●		●	●	●	
Swan Lake	55					●		●	●								●			●			●	●	●		●	
Thompson Lakes	56						●	●	●				●	●			●			●			●	●	●	●	●	
Upper Stillwater Lake	57					●				●							●			●			●				●	
Whitefish Lake	58			●		●				●							●						●	●	●	●	●	

Gold West Country

Many of Montana's fabled blue-ribbon trout streams rise in the mountains and flow through the valleys of Gold West Country. World-class fishing for wild rainbow, brown and brook trout, plus native cutthroat trout, put Montana's southwest corner at the top of every angler's list of "places to go."

THE RIVERS

The **Madison, Big Hole, Missouri, Beaverhead** and **Jefferson** head the list of the region's best-known rivers. It is to these rivers that fly fishers come like pilgrims. But bait fishers do well, too, especially during spring runoff, and spin fishers consistently take fish in summer and fall. Smaller streams like **Rock Creek** and the **Ruby** and **Dearborn** rivers also offer quality fishing.

THE LAKES

Clark Canyon, Ruby, Harrison and **Hebgen** reservoirs all offer fine fishing for browns and rainbows, while the highly productive **Georgetown Lake** hosts rainbows, brookies and kokanee salmon. Alpine lakes in the **East Pioneer, Madison** and **West Big Hole** mountains offer superb backcountry fishing.

FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION

Gold West Country

800-879-1159

406-846-1943

FOR MORE FISHING INFORMATION

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Helena Area Office, 406-444-4720

Region 3-Bozeman, 406-994-4042/4043

Gold West Country

RIVERS AND STREAMS	MAP NUMBER	COLDWATER SPECIES												WARMWATER SPECIES										FACILITIES						
		Brook Trout	Mountain Whitefish	Lake Whitefish	Golden Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Kokanee Salmon	Lake Trout	Arctic Grayling	Burbot		Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Sauger	Northern Pike	Shovelnose Sturgeon	Channel Catfish	Yellow Perch	Crappie	Paddlefish	Vehicle Access	Campgrounds	Toilets	Docks	Boat Ramps	Motor Restrictions
Beaver Creek	1	●					●	●																●	●	●			
Beaverhead River	2		●				●	●																●	●	●		●	
Big Hole River	3	●	●				●	●																●	●	●		●	
Big Sheep Creek	4		●				●	●																●	●	●			
Blackfoot River	5		●			●	●	●																●	●	●		●	
Blacktail Deer Creek	6	●	●			●		●																					
Boulder River	7	●					●	●																					
Clark Fork River	8	●	●			●	●	●																●	●	●		●	
Cottonwood Creek	9	●	●			●	●	●																					
Crow Creek	10	●						●																					
Dearborn River	11		●			●	●	●																●					
Jefferson River	12		●				●	●																●	●	●		●	
Little Blackfoot River	13		●			●	●	●																					
Little Prickly Pear Creek	14	●	●				●	●																●	●	●			
Madison River	15		●				●	●																●	●	●		●	●
Missouri River	16		●				●	●																●	●	●		●	●
North Fork Sun River	17	●				●		●																					●
Odell Creek	18						●	●																●					
Poindexter Slough	19		●				●	●																					
Prickly Pear Creek	20	●					●	●																					
Red Rock River	21		●				●	●																					
Rock Creek	22	●	●			●	●	●																●	●	●			
Ruby River	23		●			●	●	●																●	●	●			
South Fork Sun River	24	●				●		●																					●
Sun River	25		●				●	●																●	●	●		●	
West Fork Madison River	26						●	●																●	●	●			
Wise River	27	●	●			●	●	●				●												●	●	●			
LAKES AND RESERVOIRS																													
Bean Lake	28							●																●	●	●		●	
Branham Lakes	29	●																						●					
Browns Lake	30							●																●	●	●		●	
Canyon Ferry Lake	31						●	●				●									●			●	●	●	●	●	
Clark Canyon Reservoir	32		●				●	●				●												●	●	●	●	●	
Cliff Lake	33					●		●																●	●			●	
Coopers Lake	34					●																		●	●	●		●	
East Pioneer alpine lakes	35	●			●	●		●			●													●	●				
Elk Lake	36					●				●	●													●	●	●	●		
Elkhorn Mountains alpine lakes	37	●				●	●																						
Ennis Lake	38						●	●			●													●	●	●		●	
Georgetown Lake	39	●						●	●															●	●	●		●	
Gibson Reservoir	40							●																●	●	●		●	
Harrison Lake	41						●	●																●	●	●		●	
Hauser Lake	42							●	●												●			●	●	●	●	●	
Helena Valley Regulating Res.	43								●															●		●		●	●
Hidden Lake	44							●																					
Holter Lake	45						●	●	●							●					●			●	●	●	●	●	
Madison alpine lakes	46					●		●																					
Nilan Reservoir	47							●																●	●	●		●	
Park Lake	48					●					●													●	●	●			●
Ruby River Reservoir	49		●				●	●																●	●	●		●	
Twin Lakes	50	●								●		●												●	●	●		●	●
Upsata Lake	51													●							●								
Wade Lake	52						●	●																●	●	●	●	●	
West Big Hole alpine lakes	53	●			●	●		●		●	●	●												●	●			●	
Willow Creek Reservoir	54							●																●	●	●		●	
Wood Lake	55							●																●	●	●		●	

Charlie Russell Country

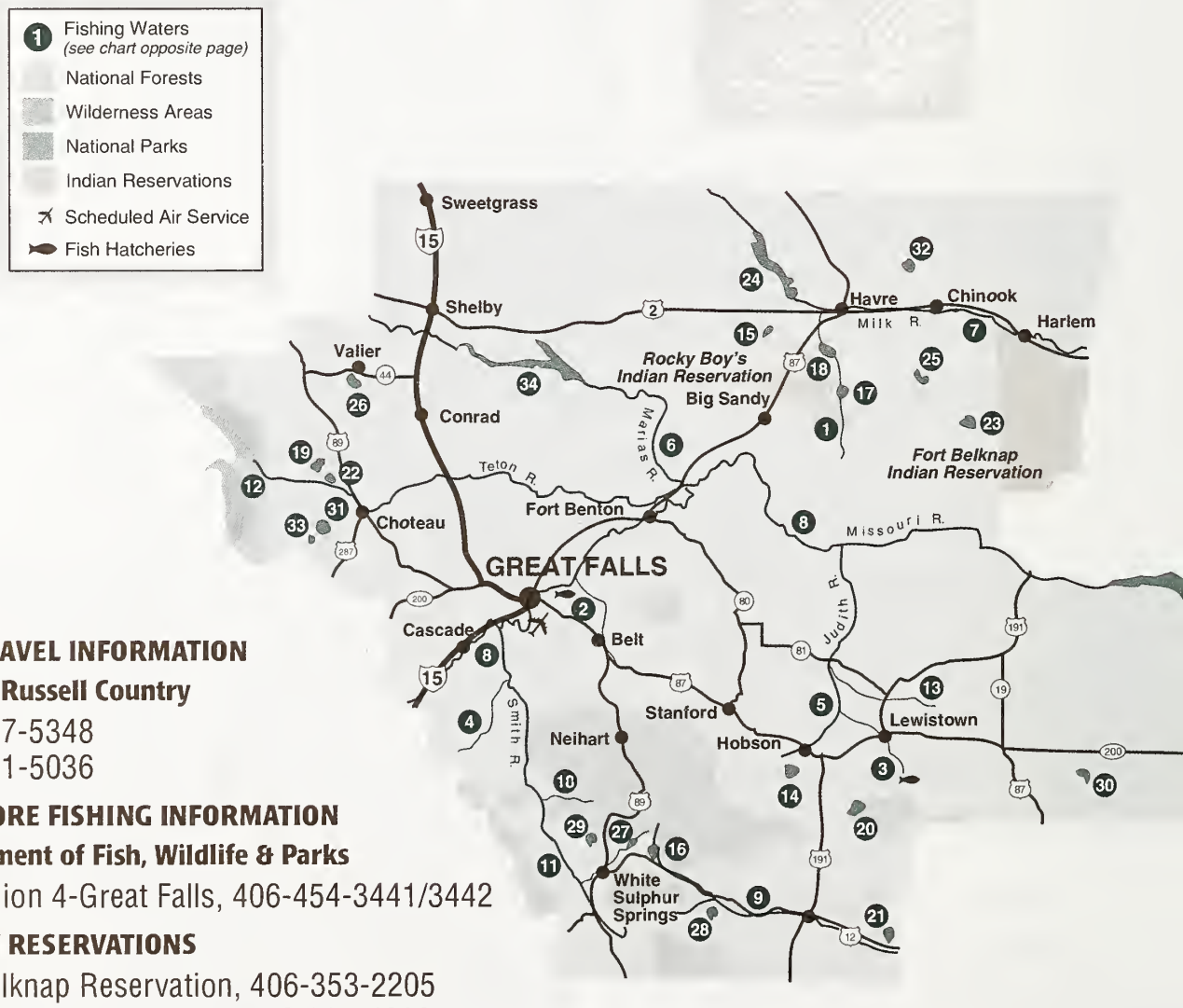
The canvas landscapes of Montana's colorful cowboy artist come to life in the region he knew and loved so dearly. Here is where the mountains meet the plains, and the fishing opportunities are as varied as the landscape. From restless, high mountain streams to easy-going rivers and prairie lakes, northcentral Montana offers the gamut of Montana gamefish, everything from wild trout to northern pike, bass, walleye and even the ancient paddlefish.

THE RIVERS

Top trout streams include the tailwater stretches of the **Missouri** and **Marias** rivers, the lower reaches of the **Sun River, Big Spring Creek** and the stunningly beautiful **Smith River**. Downstream sections of the **Marias, Milk** and **Judith** rivers offer a wide variety of warmwater gamefish. Another warmwater fishery that has drawn adventure-seekers as well as anglers ever since Lewis & Clark traveled it in 1805 is the slow-moving, sun-drenched **Wild and Scenic Missouri River.**

THE LAKES

Among the larger reservoirs, **Tiber, Fresno, Bynum** and **Lake Frances** are good bets for northern pike, walleye and perch. Scores of smaller lakes and reservoirs dot the region, including popular **Ackley** and **Crystal** lakes and **Martinsdale** and **Newlan Creek** reservoirs.



FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION
Charlie Russell Country
800-527-5348
406-761-5036

FOR MORE FISHING INFORMATION
Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 4-Great Falls, 406-454-3441/3442

INDIAN RESERVATIONS
Fort Belknap Reservation, 406-353-2205
Rocky Boy's Reservation, 406-395-4282

Charlie Russell Country

RIVERS AND STREAMS	MAP NUMBER	COLDWATER SPECIES													WARMWATER SPECIES										FACILITIES						
		Brook Trout	Mountain Whitefish	Lake Whitefish	Golden Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Kokanee Salmon	Lake Trout	Arctic Grayling	Burbot	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Sauger	Northern Pike	Shovelnose Sturgeon	Channel Catfish	Yellow Perch	Crappie	Paddlefish	Vehicle Access	Campgrounds	Toilets	Docks	Boat Ramps	Motor Restrictions
Beaver Creek	1	●				●	●	●															●	●	●			
Belt Creek	2	●	●				●	●															●	●	●			
Big Spring Creek	3		●				●	●															●		●			
Hound Creek	4		●				●	●																				
Judith River	5	●	●				●	●															●	●	●			
Marias River	6		●				●	●				●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●		●		
Milk River	7			●				●				●		●	●	●	●			●			●	●	●				
Missouri River	8		●				●	●				●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Musselshell River	9	●	●				●	●															●	●	●			
Sheep Creek	10	●	●				●	●															●	●	●			
Smith River	11	●	●				●	●				●											●	●	●		●	●
Teton River	12	●	●			●	●	●															●	●	●			
Warm Springs Creek	13							●						●									●					
LAKES AND RESERVOIRS																												
Ackley Lake	14							●															●	●	●		●	
Bailey Reservoir	15												●				●			●			●		●		●	●
Bair Reservoir	16							●															●	●	●		●	
Bearpaw Lake	17					●		●															●	●	●			●
Beaver Creek Reservoir	18							●							●		●			●			●	●	●		●	●
Bynum Reservoir	19														●					●			●	●	●		●	
Crystal Lake	20							●															●	●	●		●	●
Deadman's Basin Reservoir	21						●	●	●														●	●	●		●	
Eureka Reservoir	22							●															●	●	●		●	
Faber Reservoir	23							●															●		●			●
Fresno Reservoir	24			●											●		●			●			●	●	●	●	●	
Grasshopper Reservoir	25							●															●					●
Lake Frances	26											●			●		●			●			●	●	●		●	
Lake Sutherlin	27											●											●	●	●		●	
Martinsdale Reservoir	28						●	●															●	●	●		●	
Newlan Creek Reservoir	29					●		●															●	●	●		●	
Petrolia Reservoir	30														●		●			●			●	●	●		●	
Pishkun Reservoir	31							●									●			●			●	●	●		●	
Reser Reservoir	32							●					●							●	●		●					
Split Rock Lake	33																●			●			●					
Tiber Reservoir	34							●			●	●			●		●			●			●	●	●		●	

Yellowstone Country

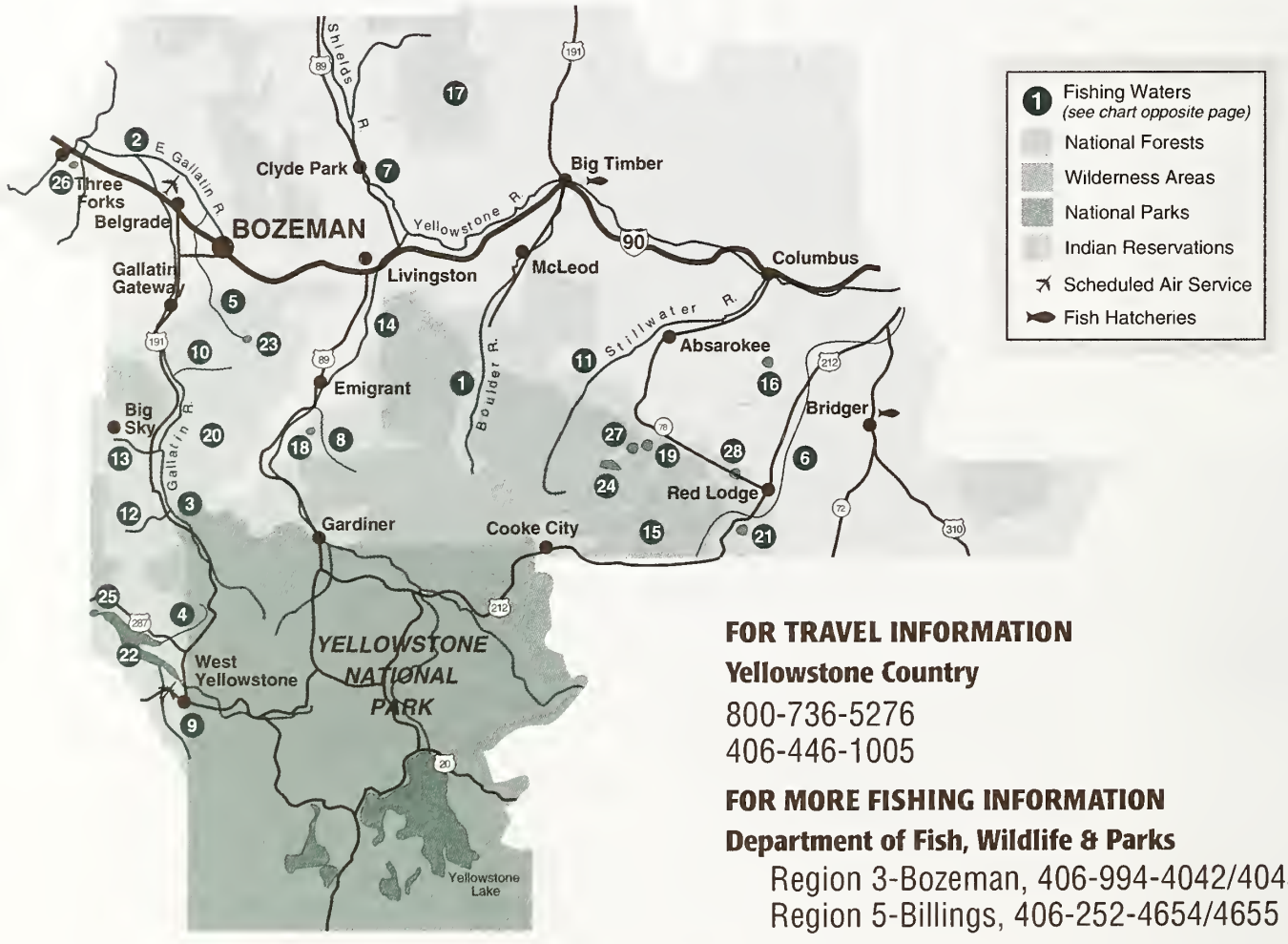
Yellowstone Country derives both its name and its angling reputation from the Yellowstone River, longest free-flowing river in the Lower 48. In addition to the Yellowstone and its tributaries, southcentral Montana guards three of the five gateways to Yellowstone National Park whose trout streams, lakes and rivers are revered worldwide.

THE RIVERS

From its headwaters in Yellowstone Park to Billings, the **Yellowstone River** offers excellent fishing for native cutthroat, wild rainbow and brown trout and mountain whitefish. Three of its major tributaries, the **Shields, Boulder** and **Stillwater**, are also popular trout streams. Experts should inquire locally about the Paradise Valley's famous **spring creeks** south of Livingston. And to the west, the **Gallatin River** is a classic mountain stream that offers excellent fishing in a scenic canyon south of Bozeman.

THE LAKES

In contrast to the large, accessible lakes in Yellowstone Park, Yellowstone Country's rugged **Beartooth Plateau** offers more than 400 alpine lakes, where backcountry travelers find cutthroat, rainbow, brook and even the elusive golden trout at 10,000 feet. Anglers who don't care to tackle the high country can still enjoy great views at the lower, more accessible lakes on the northern fringe of the plateau.



FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION

Yellowstone Country

800-736-5276
406-446-1005

FOR MORE FISHING INFORMATION

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 3-Bozeman, 406-994-4042/4043
Region 5-Billings, 406-252-4654/4655

		COLDWATER SPECIES												WARMWATER SPECIES										FACILITIES						
	MAP NUMBER	Brook Trout	Mountain Whitefish	Lake Whitefish	Golden Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Kokanee Salmon	Lake Trout	Arctic Grayling	Burbot		Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Sauger	Northern Pike	Shovelnose Sturgeon	Channel Catfish	Yellow Perch	Crappie	Paddlefish		Vehicle Access	Campgrounds	Toilets	Docks	Boat Ramps	Motor Restrictions
RIVERS AND STREAMS																														
Boulder River	1	●	●			●	●	●																	●	●	●			
East Gallatin River	2	●	●				●	●																	●					
Gallatin River	3	●	●				●	●																	●	●				●
Grayling Creek	4					●		●																	●					
Hyalite Creek	5	●				●		●																	●	●	●			
Rock Creek	6	●	●				●	●																	●	●	●			
Shields River	7		●			●	●	●																						
Sixmile Creek	8					●	●																		●					
South Fork Madison River	9						●	●																	●	●				
Squaw Creek	10	●					●	●																	●	●	●			
Stillwater River	11	●	●				●	●																	●	●	●			
Taylor Fork	12					●	●	●																	●	●				
West Fork Gallatin River	13						●	●																	●					
Yellowstone River	14		●			●	●	●				●													●	●	●		●	●
LAKES AND RESERVOIRS																														
Beartooth Plateau alpine lakes	15	●			●	●	●	●		●	●														●	●	●	●	●	
Cooney Reservoir	16						●	●								●						●			●	●	●			
Crazy Mountains alpine lakes	17	●			●	●		●																	●	●	●		●	
Dailey Lake	18							●								●						●			●	●	●			
Emerald Lake	19	●	●			●	●	●																	●	●	●			
Gallatin Mountains alpine lakes	20				●	●		●			●																			
Greenough Lake	21							●																	●	●	●			
Hebgen Lake	22						●	●																	●	●	●	●	●	
Hyalite Reservoir	23					●																			●	●	●	●	●	●
Mystic Lake	24							●																						
Quake Lake	25						●	●																	●	●	●	●	●	
Three Forks ponds	26							●						●											●					
West Rosebud Lake	27	●	●			●	●	●																	●	●	●			
Wild Bill Lake	28							●																	●		●			

Missouri River & Custer Countries

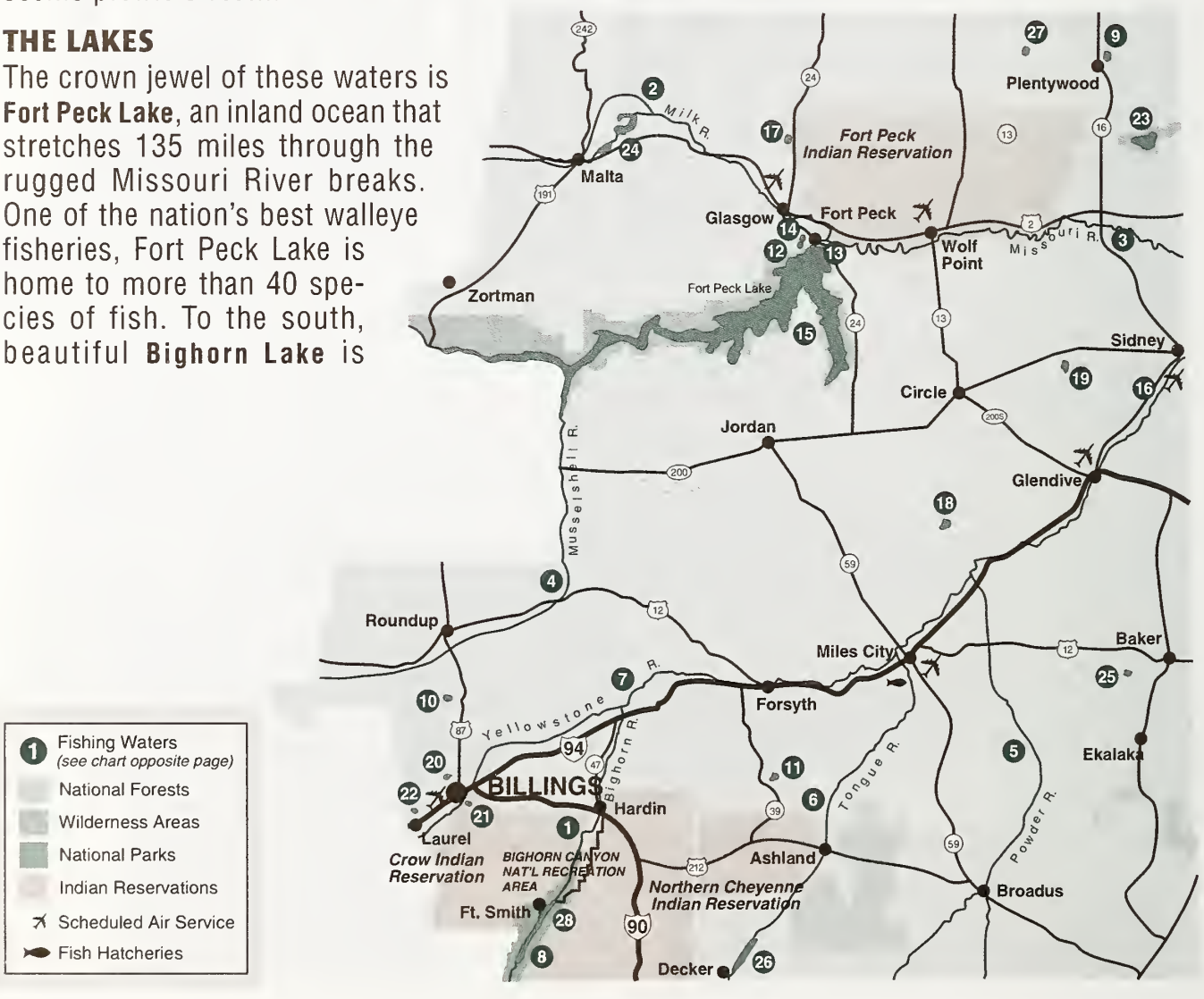
Beneath the Big Sky of eastern Montana lies an untapped treasure of angling opportunities. Giant lakes, blue-ribbon trout streams and warmwater rivers and reservoirs support diverse fisheries ranging from finicky trout to less discriminating catfish. Even the ancient paddlefish is at home in these eastern waters. The common trait these waters share is elbow room.

THE RIVERS

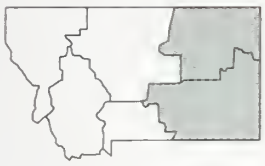
By the time they reach eastern Montana, the lower **Yellowstone** and **Missouri** rivers have become warmwater fisheries supporting an angler's mix of bass, walleye, pike and perch. The lower reaches of each river also host the prehistoric-looking paddlefish, which often tips the scale at more than 100 pounds. Shovelnose sturgeon, sauger and big channel cats are also sought on these large rivers. The **Bighorn River** stands in sharp contrast to eastern Montana's more dominant warmwater fisheries. Sustained by the coldwater discharge from Yellowtail Dam, the Bighorn boasts one of the world's best brown and rainbow trout fisheries. A healthy population of smallmouth bass draws anglers to the nearby **Tongue River,** a scenic prairie stream.

THE LAKES

The crown jewel of these waters is **Fort Peck Lake**, an inland ocean that stretches 135 miles through the rugged Missouri River breaks. One of the nation's best walleye fisheries, Fort Peck Lake is home to more than 40 species of fish. To the south, beautiful **Bighorn Lake** is walled by a spectacular red-rock canyon. The centerpiece of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, 70-mile-long Bighorn Lake offers good walleye fishing and a chance to catch rainbow and brown trout and black crappie. Both lakes are best explored by boat. Other top-quality reservoir fisheries are **Castle Rock Lake, Nelson Reservoir, Tongue River Reservoir** and **Medicine Lake,** which boasts excellent northern pike fishing in a nonmotorized, wilderness setting. A national wildlife refuge, Medicine Lake supports one of North America's largest nesting colonies of white pelicans, along with a population of ducks and geese that swells to 100,000 during peak migration periods.



Missouri River & Custer Countries



RIVERS AND STREAMS	MAP NUMBER	Brook Trout	Mountain Whitefish	Lake Whitefish	Golden Trout	Cutthroat Trout	Brown Trout	Rainbow Trout	Kokanee Salmon	Lake Trout	Arctic Grayling	Burbot	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Sauger	Northern Pike	Shovelnose Sturgeon	Channel Catfish	Yellow Perch	Crappie	Paddlefish	Vehicle Access	Campgrounds	Toilets	Docks	Boat Ramps	Motor Restrictions
		COLDWATER SPECIES											WARMWATER SPECIES										FACILITIES					
Bighorn River	1		●				●	●				●		●					●				●	●	●		●	●
Milk River	2													●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●				
Missouri River	3							●		●					●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●		
Musselshell River	4		●				●							●					●				●	●	●				
Powder River	5															●		●	●				●						
Tongue River	6													●	●	●	●	●	●				●						
Yellowstone River	7		●				●	●				●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●		
LAKES AND RESERVOIRS																													
Bighorn Lake	8						●	●				●	●			●	●			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	
Box Elder Reservoir	9							●										●			●	●		●	●	●		●	
Broadview Pond	10							●					●									●							
Castle Rock Lake	11												●	●	●		●					●			●		●	●	●
Dredge Cut trout pond	12												●		●		●			●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Flat Lake	13							●															●		●				
Fort Peck Dredge Cuts	14									●					●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●		
Fort Peck Lake	15									●				●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●		
Gartside Reservoir	16													●	●		●			●	●		●	●	●				●
Glasgow AFB Pond	17							●												●			●	●	●				
Homestead Reservoir	18												●	●									●						
Kuester Reservoir	19																●			●			●	●	●				
Lake Elmo	20												●						●	●	●		●		●		●	●	
Lake Josephine	21												●						●	●	●		●		●				●
Laurel Pond	22							●															●						
Medicine Lake	23																●						●	●	●				●
Nelson Reservoir	24														●		●			●			●	●	●		●		
South Sandstone Reservoir	25												●	●	●		●			●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●
Tongue River Reservoir	26													●	●				●	●	●		●	●	●		●		
Whitetail Reservoir	27																●			●			●	●	●				●
Yellowtail Afterbay	28						●	●															●	●	●	●	●		

FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION

Missouri River Country
406-653-3600

Custer Country
406-665-1671

FOR MORE FISHING INFORMATION

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 5-Billings, 406-252-4654/4655
Region 6-Glasgow, 406-228-9347/9348
Region 7-Miles City, 406-232-4365/4366

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
406-666-2412

INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Fort Peck Reservation, 406-768-5155
Crow Reservation, 406-638-2601
Northern Cheyenne Reservation, 406-477-6284

Montana's special gift is space, landscape made personal; space that reaches out to the horizon then comes back and gets under your skin. It reaches inward, wraps itself around your soul, incubates and grows. When you finally begin to understand just what it is about Montana that is important to you, it has already taken root in your heart and you'll never be the same.

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